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The effort to get the original meaning of Indian names, however, is a different matter. It is at best an antiquarian and etymological task of great difficulty and of little value. In most cases the explanations given by surviving Indians of this and the two or three preceding generations seem to a layman, even when plausible, to be entitled to little credence. And the present form of Indian names that have been preserved and whose derivation is often known, is so corrupted that the Indians themselves would not recognize it. If any one among us, however, is able to trace these names in their devious windings, Mr. Dunn is the man, and since he has the patience to do it we would do well to take the utmost advantage of his results. C. B. COLEMAN.

INDIANA IN THE MEXICAN WAR.

[By Oran Perry, Adjutant-General of Indiana. Illustrated. State Printer.]

Compilations are not usually attractive as literature. While this volume was not written to please, we venture the assertion that no single piece of historical work of more value has been done in the State for a long time. There is no attempt to pass judgment upon the facts, but merely to collect the material. The work is impartially done. Mr. Perry has gone carefully over the newspapers of the period,—the *Indiana Sentinel*, *Madison Courier*, *State Journal*, *Indiana Journal* and *New Albany Democrat*,—and culled incidents and narratives long since forgotten. County histories, State and Federal documents, have also been of great assistance to the compiler. The volume contains the portraits of Governor Whitcomb, Adjutant-General David Reynolds and the colonels of the five Indiana regiments which served in the war. The controversy about the retreat of the second regiment is brought forward with papers and reports.

There is nothing of greater value in this volume than the roster of the five regiments and the mounted riflemen. This roster is quite complete and the best ever published.

The work is a credit to Mr. Perry and provides a most useful reference work upon this portion of Indiana history.

This valuable compilation should have a good index. The extracts, reports and sketches are difficult to find without such an index. This is lacking. For instance: "A tug of war" is of

no value, though a short extract has such a heading. "Death of W. H. Custer," instead of "Custer, W. H., Death of," is unpardonable. The index is evidently put in as a mere formality, and there is no table of contents of any sort. A reviewer can hardly condemn this shortcoming too strongly, as it deprives the book of half of its value for use in reference work or historical study.

RUSH COUNTY—HISTORICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL.

[Rushville Publishing Co.]

There are seven contributors to this historical atlas of Rush county. The volume contains county and township maps, with town plats, directories of the land owners, a history of the government of the county and of the schools, some biographies and a compilation of laws. The last is quite unnecessary in such a publication, even though well done.

John L. Shank writes the history of the schools, which, by the way, include the well-known Fairview Academy, a classical school of high standing conducted by Allen R. Benton, who lives now at Indianapolis, in Irvington. The biographical list is entirely too short. It should be complete if given at all. The historical outline of the county government and business is much better.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION—INDIANA SOCIETY, 1908.

[By Charles W. Moores. Illustrated. 163 pages. Indianapolis, 1908. Published by the Society.]

The current year book of the Indiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is well gotten up. It contains besides constitutional and membership matters, portraits of the presidents of the society, records of revolutionary ancestors of members of the society, and other papers of interest. Among these should be mentioned the list of pensioners of the Revolutionary War residing in Indiana in 1835, arranged by counties, copied from "Senate Documents, Pension Roll, 1st Session, 23rd Congress, Volume 3." The editor of the year book gives the total as eight hundred and ten. Most of these are said to have died and have been buried in Indiana.